

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48913



DOSE OF HUMOR

<http://www.ahajokes.com/>

Q: Why do people wear shamrocks
on St. Patrick's Day?

A: Regular rocks are too heavy.

DATE:

March 2009

TO:

Families of Children with Special Needs

FROM:

Mary J. Marin, Executive Director, Family Center (FC)
Nancy Deising, Parent Communications Consultant Specialist,
Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division



SUBJECT:

Heart-to-Heart Updates



A Word from Mary... Reminder: Scholarships Available!

Michigan families are welcome to apply for a stipend to help cover expenses for one parent to attend **a conference related to their child's diagnosis, condition or treatment**. We must receive your application at least 60 days before the start of the conference. There are many worthwhile conferences related to children with special health care needs. Because our funds are limited, we must make tough choices. When two or more persons want to go to the same conference, we choose only one to attend. Priority is given to families who have never attended a conference.

Also, conference scholarships are limited to one every two years. Conference scholarships are funded by the CSN Fund (*The donor-supported fund started in 1944 with a very generous bequest by Dr. James T. Pardee, a Dow Chemical Company founder, and his wife. The CSN Fund supports unique services and projects for children with special health care needs that are not provided by state or federal funds*). You need to submit conference information with estimated costs (i.e., program booklet, brochure). Call the Family Phone Line for more details 800-359-3722.♥

The Family Center (FC) is a section of the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). CSHCS is part of MDCH's Bureau of Family, Maternal and Child Health.

CSHCS primarily provides medical specialty care to children with a qualifying diagnosis. The FC serves families of all children with special needs. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is the FC's parent-to-parent support arm.

Mary J. Marin
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CSHCS Family Phone Line
1-800-359-3722
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday- Friday

Events and resources are compiled by the Family Center from a variety of sources. A listing does not stand for endorsement.



Congratulations Pat! Pat McNutt has been promoted to Department Analyst A in the Policy and Program Development Section of CSHCS effective 12/28/2008. She will report to Karla McCandless, Manager of the section. Pat has extensive experience with CSHCS, Customer Support Section, as an Analyst for over 29 years. Her new duties include problem solving complex billing and pharmacy issues and processing contracts for CMS clinics among others.♥



Congratulations Vicki! Vicki Jenks has accepted a position as the Nurse Consultant for the Newborn Screening Program. She will be working with families who have been diagnosed with one of the 50 blood screening disorders, nurses in the birthing units across the state and with Wayne State University, the repository for newborn screening cards. Vicki has been with CSHCS for 3 years (and a total of 26 years of service at the state). The current CSHCS nurse consultant duties will be shared by Matt Richardson and Lois Turbett. ♥

Mary J. Marin♥

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) & Family Center (FC) for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Updates

Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD) will be hosting a program for families enrolled in CSHCS, Monday, April 20, 2009 at the health department from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Enrollees will receive more information mid-March. If you don't receive a mailing, call ICHD to learn more. Ingham County CSHCS also welcomes families to call to suggest topics for the meetings. ICHD-CSHCS Program: 517-887-4309 or 887-4553.♥

Ottawa County Health Department was awarded a grant from the Family



Center! The goal of the grant is to increase parent participation at the local level in Children's Special Health Care Services. Staff found fun and creative ways to get families involved, increase their knowledge of the program, and develop products to help them.

Early spring 2009, staff will offer a second opportunity for families who have recently enrolled in the program to meet staff and share a meal at the lovely restored Weaver House, within Ottawa County's Pine Bend Park. The time spent getting to know one another, sharing program information, answering questions about CSHCS services, and playing with the children has been valuable to staff and families. Each family is offered a CSHCS logo-labeled file folder to keep their child's medical documents a CSHCS embossed insignia tote bag, a magnet identifying how to contact program personnel, and the Family Phone Line number.



Meijer, Inc. partnered with us to provide Meijer gift certificates to help defray family costs to attend the open house styled sessions. Families have responded very favorably to the entire process and many have requested that staff follow-up with them to develop a plan of care in the weeks that follow. Two families that attended are now members of the CSHCS strategic planning workgroup.♥

Early Hearing, Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI)



Welcome Laura! Laura Scott joined EHDI as their new Parent Consultant. She is the proud mother of two. Her seven year-old daughter has a hearing loss. She also has a wealth of professional experience. She is an attorney, and prior to joining us she was a program manager for a non-profit in Washington, DC. She has founded two non-profit organizations (one of which grew to more than 75 members in less than a year). She is passionate about connecting people with resources and working with community organizations. Laura is also a big help with providing the Guide-By-Your-Side-Program information to families. The Michigan Guide-By-your-Side Program is a new and exciting program that provides an opportunity for a family who has just learned of their child's hearing loss to meet with another parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child who understands what the new family may be experiencing and can answer their questions. The program serves families of children 0-6 years of age. **Contact Laura to learn more about the program, regional parent guides, bilingual parent guides or to make a referral!** Laura Scott, Parent Consultant, ScottL5@michigan.gov or at 517-335-8273 or visit: www.michigan.gov/ehdi.♥

Community Mental Health Updates

The Community Mental Health Service Program (CMHSP) Customer Services Coordinator Contact list is now available for families! The CMHSP is for families that have questions about services or support for their child. Families may contact the CMHSP by phone or email. If a child is a Medicaid recipient and services are reduced or denied, they may request a Medicaid fair hearing. If the child does not have Medicaid, the family may file a local grievance at the CMHSP. Access the contact list at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/CustomerServCoord_220058_7.doc.♥

Events & Opportunities

Free Event! Empowerment Workshops - Education Advocacy Training, Sunday, March 22, 2009. Workshops covers understanding Special Education rules, I.E.P., advocacy, etc. that will help empower individuals with special needs and their families with information and resources. Workshops are from 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Honoring individuals with special needs and their families are from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The Training is presented by Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc. and Wayne State University, Developmental Disabilities Institute. Credit Education Units available. Pre-registration is required, call 313-895-7464, extension 124. Contact Celena Barnes for more information at 313-935-0965.♥



The Special Needs Store at www.thespecialneedsstore.com. The Store is making the lives of parents, therapists, and educators of children with special needs and developmental delays easier by enabling them to find a wide variety of resources and products in one location. They are continuing to add more products and resources as they grow so keep checking back. The most recent addition to their website is a *classified* section. The *gently used* section, in particular, is very exciting as this offers families an opportunity to place a very inexpensive ad to resell products that their kids have outgrown or do not work for them so they can recoup some of their expenses and possibly find the next items on their lists. Also, they offer very inexpensive ads for non-profit organizations (\$5.00/month for 6 months) and business listings (\$10/month for 6 months). Contact: Kelly Savage at 763-390-0352 or visit the website.♥

Watch Me Grow Calendar Available Being a parent is a tough job, wouldn't you agree? It is often tough to know who to turn to for information about parenting, nutrition, safety and many other issues that arise in families. Now, there is something to help! The Watch Me Grow calendar is specifically designed for families with young children in Michigan. Each month highlights a different program - offering both program information and telephone numbers. Activities and tips for parents are also offered throughout the calendar providing information on health,

safety, nutrition and parenting. For information visit:

www.watchmegrowcalendar.com. This site includes a copy (PDF) of the 2007-2008 calendars for people who want to see what it looks like as well as an order form and contact information.♥

Families of Children with Special Needs: Meet other parents who understand the unique challenges and rewards of raising a child with special needs. A great way to share concerns, successes, information and support. There is **NO COST** involved. Dinner, respite and childcare provided. Allendale, MI Group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and the Holland, MI. Group meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. For questions or to register, contact Kara Tiethof of Pathways at 616-895-1598 or e-mail: circleofparents@yahoo.com.♥

Resources

Assistive Technology (AT) Xchange
<http://www.atxchange.org/>

CSHCS Course
www.training.mihealth.org/coursedetail.htm#CSHCS

Down Syndrome Guild
www.dsgsemi.org 248-827-9135

Family Center 1-800-359-3722 and
www.bridges4kids.org/f2f

Healthy Children Project Monthly e-News <http://www.LDAofmichigan.org/healthychild.htm>

Heart-to-Heart Updates www.michigan.gov/cshcs, click on "Family Center"
E-mail **Dianna Rigato** at RigatoD@Michigan.gov for electronic copies of the Updates.

Judson Center Autism Connections
<http://www.judsoncenter.org/>

Michigan Loan Funds
<http://www.michiganloanfunds.org/>

Syndromes Without A Name-USA (SWAN-USA)
www.undiagnosed-usa.org
Amy Clugston, President
amyclugston@undiagnosed-usa.org
269-692-2090 or 888-880-SWAN (7926)

The Special Needs Store
www.thespecialneedsstore.com

Congratulations to Liz Kibby and our two other lucky iPod winners!

Two hundred teens and two hundred parents of teens with diabetes completed our survey. We were overwhelmed by the response. Look for a summary of the project and survey results in an upcoming issue of the Heart-to-Heart Update!

Thank you!

Michigan Department of Community Health
Children's Special Health Care Services Program

Teen Women with Diabetes & Their Parents!

Take a diabetes health education survey.

To find out more:

Contact us at BDRFollowup@michigan.gov

Call us toll free: 866-852-1247



Funding from the March of Dimes